

*City of Baltimore
Community Emergency Response Teams*

**Emergency Operations Center
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Congratulations to CERT and AMERICAN RED CROSS members Rosalie Pack and James Elliott for winning the 2010 Governor's Volunteer Service Award

***** Special thanks to Bethany Brown (American Red Cross) for submitted these two wonderful volunteers for their great work!**

Nominators:

Scott Brillman (on behalf of the Baltimore City Community Emergency Response Team of the Office of Emergency Management), John McDonald and Karen Kopp (on behalf of the Resident Advisory Board for Public Housing of Baltimore City), Bethany Brown (on behalf of the Disaster Action Team of the American Red Cross of Central Maryland)

Awardee :Rosalie Pack

Narrative:

Rosalie is an inspiring individual who never misses an opportunity to do more for her community. During 2009, and for the last twelve years, Rosalie Pack has been the leader of the Brooklyn Homes Tenant Council that meets at the Community Center on Tenth Street in Baltimore City. She holds monthly meetings with the residents of the 500+ houses in her neighborhood. At every meeting, she has an informational speaker or training. Some of the speaker topics during 2009 included CPR, disaster preparedness, and recycling. At every meeting, Rosalie tries to hand out something to help residents build their 'shelter in place' emergency kit. Past handouts include flashlights and battery operated clocks. When she can't get any handouts donated, she reaches into her own pocket for funds to provide supplies. Other achievements of the Tenant Council under Rosalie's leadership during 2009 include a back-to-school barbeque where the council gave new school supplies to 70 students in her community, and a yearly health and information fair.

In addition to being the leader of the Brooklyn Homes Tenant Council, Rosalie also serves on the Resident Advisory Board for Public Housing in Baltimore City. In that position, she serves as a liaison between her community and the board.

It was through her work with the tenant council that she was made aware of the Baltimore City Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Her first thought was, "This is something else my community needs to know!" Since 2005, Rosalie has been a fully trained and active member of the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay CERT. Through the CERT training provided by the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Rosalie can better assist in preparing her community for a disaster. Specifically, she is ready to administer First Aid and CPR, quickly recognize Hazmat symbols, use a fire extinguisher, and

complete disaster scene triage. She participates every month in meetings, trainings, and exercises with her team. One night at a CERT meeting, she learned about the work her local Red Cross does, and said she “saw another opportunity for helping my community.” During 2009, Rosalie joined Central Maryland Red Cross Disaster Action Team. As a Red Cross Volunteer, she is on call to respond in a moments notice to people who need food, shelter and clothing after a house fire. Through her Red Cross participation, Rosalie was on 5 disaster scenes during 2009, comforting her neighbors after house fires. She has completed and utilized her Red Cross training on how to work one-on-one with disaster clients, and how to provide Mass Care on a disaster scene.

Rosalie’s contributions to her neighbor are well documented in the media. She wrote a grant proposal and was awarded a \$5,000 to assist her community with exercise, weight-loss and health programs – <http://www.fhasecure.gov/local/md/news/2006-11-30.cfm>. She was recognized by the Baltimore City Council’s ‘Baltimore’s Top Neighborhood Moms’ Contest - <http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com/TopMoms2008.htm>; She is also actively involved in her local Boys and Girls Club - <http://pressroom.toyota.com/pr/tms/TYT2008020188051.aspx>; <http://www.fhasecure.gov/local/md/news/2006-11-30.cfm>. She has also been instrumental in replacing stolen computers from the community youth program, is a volunteer for community cardiovascular health programs, and does it all without a driver’s license!

Nominators:

Bethany Brown (on behalf of the Disaster Action Team and Health & Safety Team of the American Red Cross of Central Maryland), Scott Brillman (on behalf of the Baltimore City Community Emergency Response Team of the Office of Emergency Management)

Awardee: James T. Elliott, Sr.

Narrative:

If you have taken a Red Cross CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) class in the last few years, chances are you’ve met Jim Elliott. In the last three and a half years, Jim taught 473 CPR classes as a volunteer instructor, certifying 4,155 Marylanders in lifesaving skills. During 2009, Jim taught 962 people in 122 classes. Jim teaches CPR on behalf of Red Cross, and also teaches CPR for the Baltimore City Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

As a Red Cross volunteer, Jim takes on every volunteer assignment presented to him. Jim is a certified and active volunteer instructor in CPR and Automated External Defibrillator for the Lay Responder, First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, Sports Safety Training, Babysitter Training, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, and Emergency First Responder Training. Jim loves his job as a volunteer CPR instructor, and is willing to teach a class anywhere, anytime. He is completely committed to ensuring his community is CPR trained, and is known for teaching his class even if only one person comes to class. He inspires Lay Responders to be proactive when they see an emergency. He is

also known for making class more interesting with his inspiring stories for those who must re-certify yearly. His passion for CPR can be traced to the death of his adult son from choking. He has often been heard saying that no one will ever leave his class being proficient in preventing a conscious person from choking. He has turned his personal tragedy into community action.

During 2009, Jim also participated in Red Cross Community Disaster Education Trainings, and accepted the role as coordinator of the Red Cross 'Disaster Action Team' in Anne Arundel County. As the team coordinator, Jim dispatches Red Cross volunteer teams to disasters in his region. In his region, there were about 140 responses during 2009. He is also responsible for mentoring new team members, ensuring team volunteer retention, assisting with government and partner organization liaison work, and maintaining team supplies. During 2009, Jim participated in approximately 50 disaster responses, in most cases assisting residents who had house fires with food, clothing and shelter.

As a Baltimore City Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member, Jim teaches Baltimore City CERT teams CPR, and acts as a community and volunteer resource for the city CERT teams. Jim is willing to participate in any CERT deployment. He is known as an excellent community resource for other CERT members. Over the years, he has contributed to the ultimate success of the Baltimore City CERT program.

Born on Light Street in Baltimore City, Jim is a life-long Maryland resident. Over the years, Jim has worked with numerous volunteer groups including Boy Scouts, Young Marines and Little League in Brooklyn Park. He is beloved around the state not only for his health, safety and disaster knowledge, but as a generous friend and mentor to everyone he meets.